

Amendment and Response

Applicant: Mike Bowen et al.

Serial No.: 10/720,412

Filed: November 24, 2003

Docket No.: 200209250-1

Title: PRINTER SYSTEM HAVING A ROTATABLE INPUT TRAY WITH LENGTH ADJUSTER

REMARKS

The following remarks are made in response to the Office Action mailed April 28, 2005. Claims 17-20 and 40-43 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1-11, 21-28 and 37-39 have been allowed. Claims 12, 13 and 29-32 were rejected. Claims 14-16 have been objected to. With this Response, claim 29 has been amended and claim 44 has been added. Claims 1-16, 21-39, and 44 are currently pending in the application and are presented for consideration and allowance.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kramer et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,046,433 ("Kramer"). Kramer does not disclose the features of claim 12.

In particular, Kramer does not disclose an input tray including "a length adjuster adapted to be slidably secured to the track" as recited in claim 12. In the Office Action, the pin 59 of Kramer is stated to represent a length adjuster adapted to be slidably secured to a track represented by adjustment strut 57. However, the pin 59 of Kramer is not "*slidably* secured" to adjustment strut 57. More specifically, the pin 59 is adapted to be fit into any one of a plurality of apertures 60 defined along the adjustment strap 57, and once pin 57 is secured within one of the apertures 60 of adjustment strap 57, pin 59 is stationary and cannot slide relative to adjustment strap 57. Therefore, pin 59 is not "*slidably* secured" to adjustment strap 57. Consequently, **Kramer fails to disclose "a length adjuster adapted to be *slidably* secured to the track"** as recited in independent claim 12. As a result, independent claim 12 is believed to be allowable over Kramer, and withdrawal of the associated rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 is also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shim U.S. Patent No. 5,975,520 ("Shim"). Shim does not disclose the features of claim 12.

In particular, Shim fails to disclose an input tray having "a track partially maintained by each of the stationary portion and the rotatable portion" wherein a length adjuster is adapted to be slidably secured to the track. The Office Action states that "Shim also teaches a track 21 partially maintained by each of the stationary portion 10 and the rotatable portion (20, 30)" (page 3, paragraph 5). However, Shim describes, slot 21 as being formed solely by the second tray 20

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(see e.g. Figure 2; Figure 4; Figure 5; column 3, lines 14-17). Plug 13, which is described in the Office Action as being a length adjuster, extends from first tray 10 and is inserted into slot 21 of second tray 20. Upon rotation of second tray 20, plug 13 moves along slot 21. This interaction further emphasizes that slot 21 is solely defined by second tray 20. Second tray 20 is described in the Office Action as being a rotatable portion and first tray 10 is described as being the stationary portion. With this in mind and since first tray 10 fails to form any part of slot 21, **Shim fails to disclose a track partially maintained “by each of the stationary portion and the rotatable portion.”** Rather, the slot 21 of Shim is only defined by a rotatable portion, which in this case is considered to be second tray 20. Accordingly, Shim fails to disclose the features recited in independent claim 12. Therefore, independent claim 12 is believed to be allowable over the cited reference, and the associated rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Dependent claim 13 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shim. Dependent claim 13 depends from independent claim 12, which as described above is believed to be allowable over the cited references. Therefore, dependent claim 13 is also believed to be allowable over Shim, and it is requested that the associated rejection be withdrawn.

Independent claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shim. Shim fails to disclose the features of amended, independent claim 29.

In particular, Shim does not disclose a means for selectively maintaining the media stop at a plurality of positions along an adjustable length wherein *the adjustable length is greater than the first length* as recited in claim 29. In particular, with respect to the allowance of independent claims 1, 21, 33, and 37, the Office Action states that the prior art of record does not teach or render obvious a length adjuster adapted to move along an adjustable length where the adjustable length is greater than a first length in which the rotatable portion extends from a stationary portion of the input tray. Similar reasoning applies to independent claim 29 as **Shim fails to disclose a media stop or, more particularly, a means for selectively maintaining the media stop at a plurality of positions along an adjustable length where the adjustable length is greater than the first length** as recited in amended, independent claim 29. Therefore, for similar reasons as described in the Office Action with respect to independent claims 1, 21, 33, and 37,

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independent claim 29 is believed to be allowable over the cited references. Therefore, withdrawal of the associated rejection is respectfully requested.

Dependent claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Shim. Each of dependent claims 30-32 depend from independent claim 29, which as described above, is believed to be allowable over the cited reference. Therefore, dependent claims 30-32 are also believed to be allowable over Shim. Consequently, withdrawal of the associated rejections is respectfully requested.

Objected to Claims

Dependent claims 14-16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Each of dependent claims 14-16 depend from independent claim 12, which as described above is believed to be allowable over the cited references. Therefore, dependent claims 14-16 are believed to depend from an allowable base claim, and therefore, the objection to claims 14-16 is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The allowance of claims 1-11, 21-28, and 33-39 is noted with appreciation.

New Claim

Applicants have added new claim 44, which depends from independent claim 29. New claim 44 does not present any new matter and is believed to be allowable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-16, 21-39, and 44 are each in form for allowance and are not taught or suggested by the cited references. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and allowance of claims 1-16, 21-39, and 44 is respectfully requested.

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The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative at the below-listed telephone numbers to facilitate prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this paper or papers, as described herein, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope address to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 27th day of July, 2005.

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